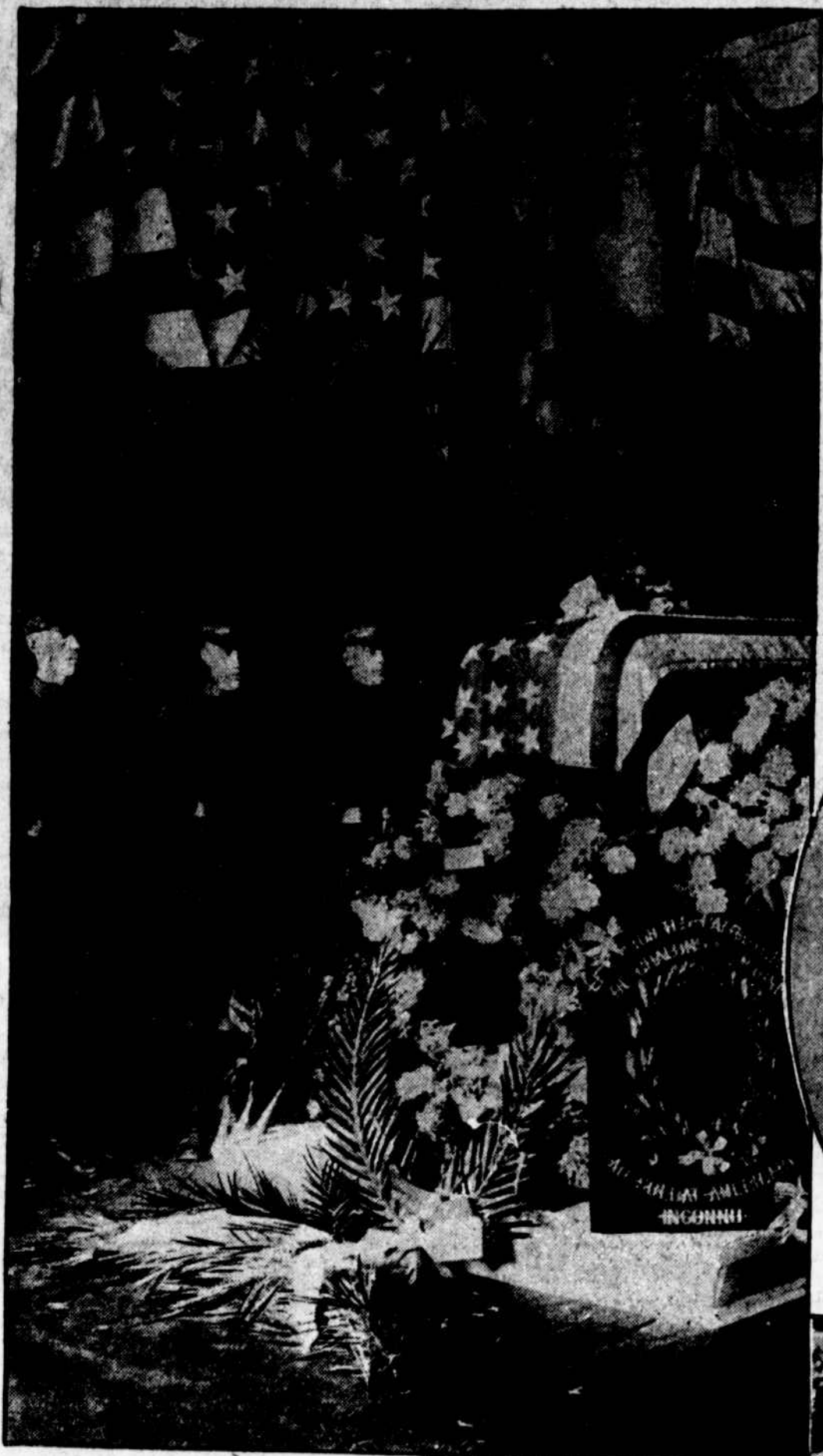


# Trying to Penetrate the Secrets of the "Unknown Heroes"

*French, English and American Mediums Pretend to Have Messages from the Spirits of the Unknown Soldiers Revealing Just Who They Were, Where They Died and How They Gave Their Lives for Their Country*



Photograph of America's Unknown Warrior Lying in State in a Flag-Draped Casket in the Rotunda of the Capitol in Washington.

ONE after another the allied nations have buried with imposing ceremonies the remains of an "Unknown Hero" to symbolize the gratitude and the honor which belong to those who gave their lives to their country in the late great war.

It was not the purpose to select one known individual and bestow upon him the honor of this national tribute. To make the symbolism complete every possible care was taken to select the remains of a fallen warrior whose name and identity could never be discovered, and so there lies in historic old Westminster Abbey in London the body of a British soldier.

He may be the son of any one of the thousands of bereaved British mothers whose soldier boys fell on the battlefield and were buried in unknown graves. And in France and in Italy an "Unknown Hero" has been buried with the highest national honors in a place with a monument which will endure for centuries.

In the great national cemetery at Arlington, near Washington, America's own "Unknown Hero" has recently been laid to rest with most impressive ceremonies and tributes.

But scarcely had the ceremonies of interment been finished in London and in Paris before reports were spread that the veil of mystery surrounding the identity of the "Unknown Hero" had been penetrated by spiritualistic mediums. The mediums have summoned the spirits from the world beyond the grave to reveal, through their ouija boards and mystic tables, the name and circumstances of the death of the "Unknown Hero."

Especially in France the interest in the work of the spiritualists in this direction has been widespread and intense. It is stated that the mediums have succeeded in getting in touch with the spirit of the French "unknown hero." Thus they claim to have revealed his name and the address of his home town and family, and pursuing the inquiry have been able to reveal the manner in which he met his death.

Friends of the deceased are said to have at first been skeptical, but upon searching the records have been able to confirm all the details as revealed by the ouija boards and mystic tables. It is reported that the same name and circumstances of death of the unknown symbolical hero have been ob-



The United States Congressional Medal of Honor Lying on the Slab on the Floor of Westminster Abbey Where the British Unknown Hero Is Buried.

tained independently by several widely separated spiritualistic mediums.

In England it is reported that mediums have victimized the sorrowing relatives of missing soldiers by pretending that their loved one was the "Unknown Hero." From the depths below the flags in Westminster Abbey they claim to have materialized the spirit of the unknown dead and obtained messages for the bereaved relatives.

It is reported that American spiritualists have also pretended to penetrate the secrets of the casket in the national cemetery at Arlington. Since it is not possible to deny any pretended identification of the "Unknown Hero" it leaves an easy field for deception on the part of unscrupulous spiritualistic mediums.

After the death of ex-President Roosevelt spiritualists all over the country reported almost nightly conversations with Mr. Roosevelt's ghost. A long, detailed and remarkable manuscript now in a safe deposit vault in New York City was offered to this newspaper by a group of spiritualists who said that Mr. Roosevelt had been hurried out of the world before he had time to make known certain important things, and he had stopped for a few evenings on his way to the world beyond to throw off these important belated messages for the American public through the obliging medium.

Whatever the American spiritualists may claim in regard to the identity of the remains so solemnly interred recently in the national cemetery, it will never be possible to dispute the claims. The most painstaking care was taken in selecting the body of this American soldier so that it would be impossible ever to establish the soldier's identity.



Sergeant Edward E. Younger, Who Selected the Casket Containing the Remains of America's Unknown War Hero.



Spiritualistic Mediums Assert That They Have Summoned the Spirits from the World Beyond the Grave to Reveal Through Their Ouija Boards and Mystic Tables the Name and Circumstances of the Death of the Unknown Heroes.

same thing, then Italy and then the United States.

As to who the "Unknown Hero" was, when and where he died and what was the manner of his death there is bound to be endless speculation for a long time to come. But the mystery which originally surrounded the hero's end and sent him to a nameless grave has been so carefully protected and deepened by the army authorities that it seems doubtful if it can ever be cleared up.

The precautions taken to insure the identity of America's "Unknown Hero" remaining forever hidden were even more elaborate and better calculated to baffle the efforts of inquisitive investigators than those taken by England, France or Italy.

All that is known, even by Major-General Allen and the other officers who directed the selection of the "Unknown Hero," is that he was one of about 1,600 American soldiers who gave their lives for their country in such a manner that it has been impossible, up to the present time, to fix their identity.

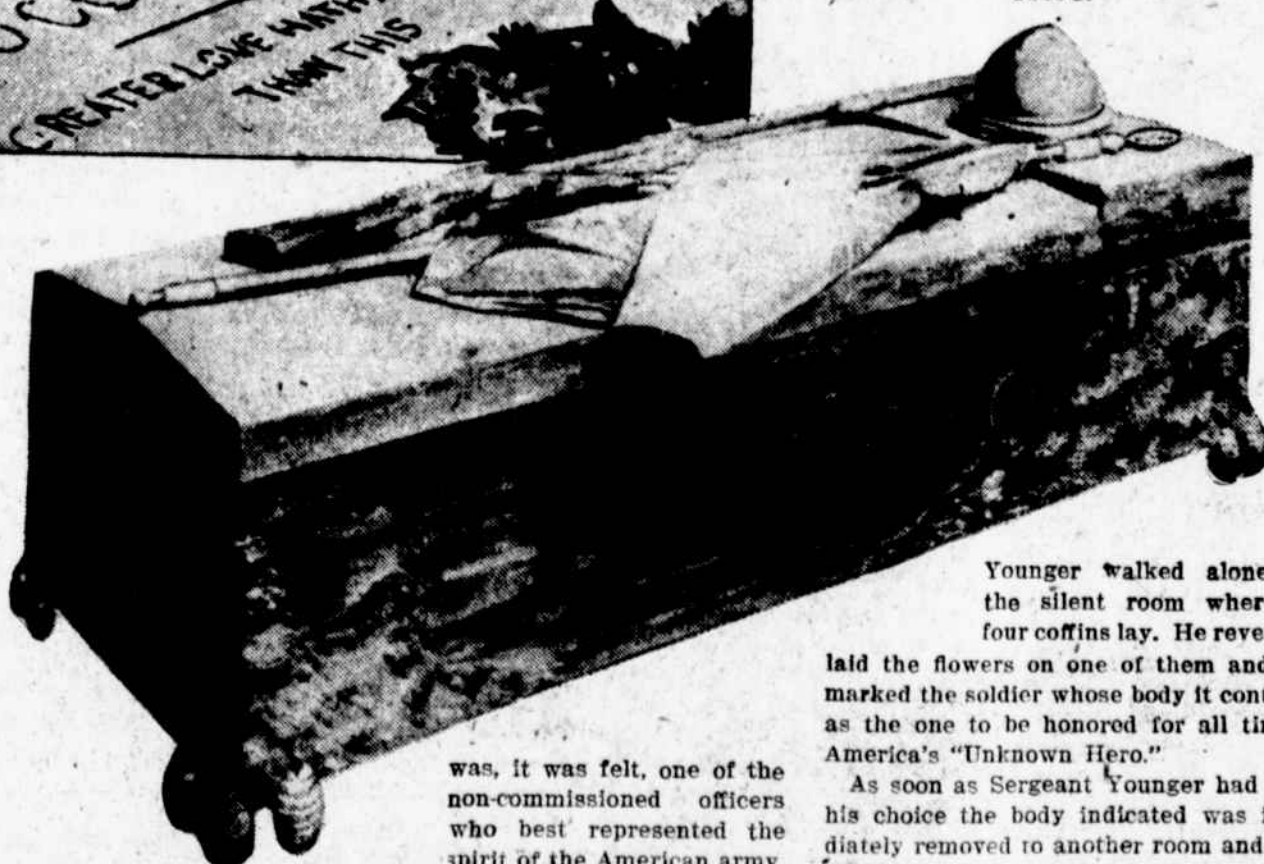
Sixteen hundred is a very small number to remain unidentified out of a total of nearly 76,000 men who died overseas. Its smallness is due to the great care taken by the Government to provide all America's fighting men with numerous means of identification.

Additional identifications are still being made, and by the time the Graves Registration Corps' work is completed there may perhaps be only a hundred or so whose identity is still unknown. In fact, when the plan to bury an unidentified soldier at Arlington was broached some officers of the corps opposed it on the ground that they expected eventually to identify every one of the dead, and would therefore be unable to supply the body of an "Unknown Hero" to receive the grateful nation's homage.

According to the latest official figures the number of Americans who died overseas was 75,822. Of this number about 40 per cent, it is estimated, will be allowed to remain in graves on foreign soil and the rest will be brought back to the United States to be re-buried.

The nameless man who lies at Arlington in a flag-covered coffin inscribed, "An unknown America soldier, who gave his life in the Great War," is a symbol of all the thousands of soldiers and sailors who died as he did. And the tribute the nation has paid and will continue to pay him is also a tribute to the others who made the same great sacrifice.

As General Pershing has said, "It is a fitting tribute for the nation to pay, not only to its unknown dead, but to all who gave their lives or risked their lives in France."



Rough Hewn Oak Casket of Italy's National Unknown Hero.

Younger walked alone into the silent room where the four coffins lay. He reverently

laid the flowers on one of them and thus marked the soldier whose body it contained as the one to be honored for all time as America's "Unknown Hero."

As soon as Sergeant Younger had made his choice the body indicated was immediately removed to another room and preparations begun for its long journey to Arlington. The bodies of the three other soldiers, who had missed by the narrowest of margins the distinction that is their comrades', were taken to Romagne Cemetery, where they were reinterred with fitting ceremonies the following afternoon.

In selecting this country's "Unknown Hero" the American army authorities followed more or less closely the method of procedure already used by England and France.

The French selected from their principal battlefields the bodies of nine unidentified dead. They were taken to the citadel of Verdun, and there a non-commissioned officer with a record of heroic service selected the one that was later buried under the Arc de Triomphe in Paris. The remaining eight were buried beneath the citadel of Verdun.

It was England that first conceived the beautiful idea of honoring her nameless dead by the interment of one of them in Westminster Abbey. Then France did the

was, it was felt, one of the non-commissioned officers who best represented the spirit of the American army.

Sergeant Younger is from Chicago. He participated in all the major engagements in which the United States troops took part in France and was twice wounded. He wears decorations for his gallantry given him by both the American and the French governments.

From Coblenz, where he is attached to Headquarters Company, Second Battalion, Fifth Infantry, Sergeant Younger was brought to Chalons-sur-Marne to make the selection of America's "Unknown Hero." The ceremony attending the final selection was brief but impressive in its simplicity and in the assurance it gave that nobody had any idea of the identity of the soldier chosen.

When Sergeant Younger, obeying orders, appeared at the town hall in Chalons he was met by Major-General Henry T. Allen, who told him in soldier-like phrases what was expected of him and handed him a bouquet of roses.

With the roses in his hand Sergeant

The "Unknown Hero" who was buried the other day at Arlington with such impressive honors was one of four bodies, picked at random from the unidentified graves in the four permanent American cemeteries in France—Romagne, Triancourt, Bony and Belleau Wood.

These four coffins were carefully stripped of all possible clues to the identity of the corpses they contained. The marks indicating the battlefield on which the soldiers' bodies had been found and the cemeteries in which they had been buried were obliterated or removed.

When this had been done and each of the four coffins looked exactly like the other three they were removed to the city of Chalons-sur-Marne and placed in a room in the town hall. Not even the special Graves Registration Corps who prepared the coffins for removal were able to say whether the bodies they contained were those of officers or privates, or whether their occupants had fallen in the Argonne, at St. Mihiel or Chateau-Thierry or on the Somme.

The honor of selecting from these four coffins the one to be carried across the Atlantic on an American warship and buried at Arlington was entrusted to Sergeant Edward E. Younger, now serving with the American forces in Germany. He